

In 1984 the number of companies owning controlling interest in all media, newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and book publishing was 50. Since the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that number is down to 10. By decreasing competition the act has narrowed the service provided by these companies and increased the price to consumers. The quality of radio, TV and cable selection is lamentable, to say the least. Since there is no competition there is no choice for the public. In Sacramento we are blessed with one of the better newspapers and readers make constant use of the ombudsman and letters to editor columns to make their opinions known. We don't have that opportunity with other media. I am opposed to further deregulation.